b. Inner webs of primaries and secondaries narrowly margined with pale rufous; greater wing-coverts brown, with narrow yellowish-white or buff margins. General colour of the head brown, washed with greenish, similar to the rest of the upper parts. Average size of wing 3.9 inches ...

P. chrysotis.

XXIII.—Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

Nos. XXXI.-XXXIII.

No. XXXI. (Dec. 30th, 1895.)

THE thirtieth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of December, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :--G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, R. M. BAR-RINGTON, E. BIDWELL, COL. C. T. BINGHAM, J. L. BON-HOTE, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, ERNST HARTERT, Major A. P. LOYD, J. G. MILLAIS, R. NESHAM, H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), Capt. G. E. SHELLEY, Rev. H. H. SLATER, C. A. WRIGHT, JOHN YOUNG.

Visitors : F. V. McConnell, H. Stevens, W. N. Wood.

The CHAIRMAN spoke of the loss which the Club had sustained since its last meeting, by the death of Mr. Henry Seebohm, of whose life and work he gave a short account. He proposed that a message of condolence be sent to the family, and this was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Selater also expressed a hope that some means would be found to publish the 'Monograph of the Turdidæ,' which Mr. Seebohm had left in a forward state.

Mr. J. G. MILLAIS exhibited photographs of Swallows' nests built in the branches of stags' horns at Warnham Court. One of these nests had been so built for nine years in succession.

252

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited skins of *Podargus ocellatus*, Quoy & Gaim., and the type of a new *Podargus*, of which the Tring Museum had received a number of specimens, and which he characterized as follows :—

PODARGUS INTERMEDIUS, Sp. n.

Similis P. ocellato, sed multo major; alis 243-211 millim., caud. 200-206.

Hab. 'Kiriwina,' in insulis 'Trobriand' (typus) et 'Fergusson' in ins. 'D'Entrecasteaux' dictis.

"Obs.—This species is remarkably larger than P. ocellatus and P. ocellatus marmoratus, and all the specimens are alike, so that it must be described. The wing in P. ocellatus is usually under, and seldom over 180 millim. long, so that there is generally a difference of at least 20-25 millim., or about an inch. The same striking differences in size are obvious in all the other parts, such as beak, feet, &c., as may be seen at a glance in the specimens exhibited. P. intermedius is intermediate in size between P. ocellatus and its sub-species and the gigantic P. papuensis, Quoy & Gaim., which has a wing of about 300 millim. or one foot, while it agrees in colour with both of the species, varying just as much, the females now before me being more rufous."

"This interesting new form was discovered by Mr. Albert S. Meek, who also found its nest and eggs, which will be described elsewhere."

Mr. HARTERT likewise exhibited a new Goatsucker, which he characterized as follows :---

CAPRIMULGUS ROSENBERGI, Sp. n.

Similis C. ocellato, sed duabus maculis rotundis albis in teetricibus longissimis alarum primo visu distinguendus: macula collari alba maxima: rectricibus omnibus albo terminatis, abdomine sine maculis albis conspicuis. Long. al. 5.2 poll., caud. 4.7, tarsi 0.6. "Iris brunnea." Hab. Ad flumen 'Dagua' dictum, in Colombia occidentali, W. Rosenberg coll. April 2, 1895.

Type in the Rothschild Museum.

Type in the Kothschild Museum.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE gave the following systematic list of the species of the family Ardeidæ, as determined by him

> 1. Phoyx purpurea (L.). 2. — manillensis (Meyen). 3. Ardea goliath, Cretzschm. 4. ---- sumatrana, Raffl. 5. —— insignis, Hodgs. 6. — humbloti, Milne-Edw. & Oust. 7. ---- melanocephala, Vig. & Childr. 8. --- cocoi, L. 9. — cinerea, L. 10. — herodias, L. 11. — occidentalis, Aud. 12. Mesophoyx intermedia (Wagl.). 13. — brachyrhyncha (Brehm). 14. — plumifera (Gould). 15. Herodias alba (L.). 16. —— egretta (Wils.). 17. —— timoriensis (Less.). 18. Florida cærulea (L.). 19. Melanophoyx ardesiaca (Wagl.). 20. — vinaceigula, Sharpe. 21. Dichromanassa rufa (Bodd.). 22. Notophoyx novæ-hollandiæ (Lath.). 23. — pacifica (Lath.). 24. ---- picata (Gould). 25. — aruensis (Gray). 26. Lepterodias gularis (Bosc). 27. ---- asha (Sykes). 28. Garzetta garzetta (L.). 29. — *nigripes* (Temm.). 30. Leucophoyx candidissima (Gm.). 31. Hydranassa tricolor (P. L. S. Müll.). 32. — ruficollis (Gosse). 33. Nyctanassa violacea (L.). 34. ---- pauper (Scl. & Salv.). 35. Agamia agami (Gm.).

36. Demiegretta sacra (Gm.).

254

37. Nucticorax nucticorax (L.). 38. — tayaza-guira (V.). 39. — cyanocephalus (Mol.). 40. --- leuconotus (Wagl.). 41. — caledonicus (Gm.). a. crassirostris, Vig. 42. — mandibularis, Ogilvie Grant. 43. — manillensis, Vig. 44. ---- minahasæ, Meyer & Wiglesw. 45. Canchroma cochlearia, L. 46. ---- zeledoni, Ridgw. 47. Gorsachius melanolophus (Raffl.). 48. — goisagi (Temm.). 49. Syriqma cyanocephalum (Mol.). 50. Pilerodius pileatus (Bodd.). 51. Butorides atricapilla (Afzel.). 52. — striata (L.). 53. — javanica (Horsf.). a. amurensis (Schrenk). β . spodiogaster, Sharpe. 54. ---- stagnatilis (Gould). 55. ---- sundevalli, Sharpe. 56. — virescens (L.). 57. Tigriornis leucolopha (Jard.). 58. Zonerodius heliosylus (Less.). 59. Tigriosoma lineatum (Bodd.). 60. - excellens, Ridgw. 61. — marmoratum (V.). 62. — bahiæ, Sharpe. 63. — fasciatum, Such. 64. ---- salmoni, Scl. & Salv. 65. Heterocnus cabanisi (Heine). 66. Erythrocnus rufiventris (Sund.). 67. Ardeola ralloides (Scop.). 68. — idæ (Hartl.). 69. — grayi (Sykes). 70. ---- bacchus (Bp.). 71. — speciosa (Horsf.).

72. Bubulcus lucidus (Rafin.). 73. — coromandus (Bodd.). 74. Ardetta minuta (L.). 75. — podicipes (Bp.). 76. —— sinensis (Gm.). 77. ---- exilis (Gm.). 78. — neoxena, Corv. 79. — erythromelas (V.). 80. ---- pusilla (V.). 81. ---- riedeli, Meyer & Wiglesw. 82. — involucris (V.). 83. — cinnamomea (Gm.). 84. Zebrilus pumilus (Bodd.). 85. Nannocnus eurythmus (Swinh.). 86. Ardeirallus sturmi (Wagl.). 87. Dupetor flavicollis (Lath.). 88. ---- gouldi (Bp.). 89. — nesophilus (Sharpe). 90. ---- melas (Salvad.). 91. Erythrophoyx woodfordi (Grant). 92. —— prætermissa (Sharpe). 93. Botaurus stellaris (Linn.). 94. —— capensis (Schl.). 95. — paciloptilus (Wagl.). 96. —— lentiginosus (Mont.). 97. — pinnatus (Wagl.).

The following new genera and species were described :--

MELANOPHOYX VINACEIGULA, sp. n.

- Similis *M. ardesiacæ*, sed gutture vinaceo nec nigro distinguenda. Long. tot. 16.5 poll., culm. 2.25, alæ 9.0, caudæ 3.36, tarsi 3.05.
 - Hab. Transvaal. Typus in Mus. Brit.

Nоторноух, gen. n.

Genus simile generi 'Lepterodius' dicto, sed plumis nuchalibus dependentibus nullis distinguendum.

Typus est Notophoyx novæ hollandiæ.

+ TIGRIORNIS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi ' Tigriosoma' dicto, sed tarso anteriore reticulato distinguendum.

Typus est Tigriornis leucolopha (Jard.).

-HETEROCNUS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi ' Tigriosoma ' dicto, sed gutture medialiter plumoso distinguendum.

Typus est Heterocnus cabanisi (Heine).

+ TIGRIOSOMA BAHIÆ, Sp. n.

Similis T. lineato (Bodd.), sed pectore et abdomine brunneis atque fulvo latè fasciatis distinguendum. Long. tot. 24.0 poll., culm. 4.2, alæ 10.8, caudæ 4.2, tarsi 4.0.
Hab. Bahia, Brazil.

Dr. SHARPE exhibited, on behalf of Dr. J. E. T. Aitchison, F.R.S., a pair of Himalayan Woodpeekers (*Dendrocopus himalayensis*), shot by him in his garden at Murree, N.W. Himalayas, in September. The birds were killed in the act of making holes in walnuts for the purpose of extracting the kernel for food. Dr. Aitchison wrote that two walnuttrees in his garden were infested by these Woodpeckers, which destroyed a large number of walnuts, picking them off the ground when they fell, and inserting them in crevices and holes in the bark of trees, until they had managed to hammer a hole through the shells.

Dr. SHARPE also described a new species of Weaver-bird from Eastern Africa, collected by Dr. Donaldson Smith. He gave the following diagnosis of the species :—

PLOCEIPASSER DONALDSONI, sp. n.

P. brunneus, frontis et verticis plumis brunneis, albo squamatim marginatis : uropygio et supracaudalibus albis : rectricibus albo terminatis : subtus isabellinus, facie laterali gulâque albis, fasciâ mystacali posticâ nigrâ : pectore summo vix fusco striolato distinguendus. Long. tot. 6.7 poll., culm. 0.7, alæ 3.8, caudæ 2.3, tarsi 0.9.

Dr. SHARPE also exhibited a specimen of the Red-throated Pipit (Anthus cervinus), which had been submitted to him

for identification by Mr. W. C. J. Ruskin-Butterfield, of St. Leonard's. The specimen had been shot near Hastings on the 13th of November, and was a male in full winter plumage.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited specimens of two apparently undescribed birds from the Owen Stanley Mountains, in S.E. New Guinea :--

OREOPSITTACUS GRANDIS, sp. n.

- ♂ similis O. arfaki ♂, sed multo major, et plagâ abdominali rubrâ absente distinguendus. Long. tot. 6·3 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·5, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 0·65.
- \mathfrak{P} similis O. arfaki \mathfrak{P} , sed multo major et abdomine viridi concolore distinguenda.

MELIPOTES ATRICEPS, sp. n.

Similis M. gymnopi, sed subtus minimè albo notata, et subalaribus pallidè cervinis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8.0 poll., culm. 1.92, alæ 4.3, caudæ 3.9, tarsi 1.2.

Captain G. E. SHELLEY gave some details of his projected new 'Handbook to the Birds of Africa,' of which the first volume was nearly ready for issue.

No. XXXII. (Jan. 31st, 1896.)

THE thirty-first meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of January, 1896.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present: -G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, E. BIDWELL, Lt.-Col. C. T. BINGHAM, F. E. BLAAUW, F. E. BEDDARD, F.R.S., PHILIP CROWLEY, A. H. EVANS, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., G. H. CATON HAIGH, R. NESHAM, CHAS. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), W. L. SCLATER, Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), Capt. G. E. SHELLEY, F. STYAN, W. B. TEGETMEIER.

Visitors : Dr. F. D. DRUITT, J. MITCHELL, ARNOLD PIKE.

258

Mr. SCLATER gave the outlines of a scheme for a new general work on Birds, which he had long planned and which he proposed to bring before the next meeting of the B.O.U. with the hope of inducing his brother ornithologists to assist in it. Now that the great ' Catalogue of Birds' in the British Museum was approaching completion, it was manifest that the possibility of preparing a general handbook of the described species of birds (something in the style of Bonaparte's 'Conspectus') was greatly increased. In Mr. Sclater's opinion the best way of effecting this desirable object would be to separate the handbook into six portions, corresponding to the six great Geographical Regions of the earth's surface. Taking the described species of birds as about 12,000, each volume appropriated to a Region would relate, on an average. to 2000 species. After adding to each volume 500 species for those that occurred in more than one Region, there would thus be (on the average) about 2500 species to be treated of in each volume.

Mr. Sclater proposed that, besides a reference to the British Museum Catalogue, only a short Latin diagnosis, a few selected synonyms, and the *patria* should be added to the name of each species ; and he considered that, if this plan were adopted, five or more species could (on the average) be easily got into one page : at which rate each volume would consist of about 500 pages. He thought that an appropriate title for such a work would be 'Avium Viventium Expositio Systematica'; the short title being 'Aves,' formed by the initial letters of these four words. The six volumes might be numbered I. to VI., but would have a second title according to the Region to which they related—Aves Palæareticæ, Aves Æthiopicæ, &c. The compilation of each volume should be assigned to an ornithological expert qualified to undertake the particular task.

A DISCUSSION followed on Dr. Sclater's proposed scheme, of which Dr. Günther expressed approval. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe stated that he would like to consider the question further before it was proposed to the B. O. U. in April, and stated

that he had promised to contribute to the volumes of the 'Thierreich,' which Dr. Schultze was proposing to publish in Berlin. The Chairman pointed out that the scope of his proposed work was entirely different from that of the 'Thierreich.'

Mr. F. E. BLAAUW exhibited an egg of *Psophia leucoptera* which had been laid in his aviaries at s'Graveland during the past summer. This was believed to be the first opportunity afforded to ornithologists of knowing what the egg of *Psophia* was like, and it was interesting to find that the Trumpeter laid a pure white egg.

Dr. DRUITT exhibited a specimen of the Senegal Stone-Curlew (*Œdienemus senegalensis*) which he had shot near Assonan, in Upper Egypt.

Mr. G. H. CATON HAIGH exhibited a specimen of the Water-Pipit (*Anthus spipoletta*) killed in Lincolnshire during the past autumn.

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited some of the down of the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes pennanti*), from specimens now living in the Zoological Society's Gardens.

No. XXXIII. (Feb. 29th, 1896.)

THE thirty-second meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of February, 1896.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :---O. V. Aplin, G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, E. BIDWELL, W. E. DE WINTON, E. A. S. ELLIOT, H. J. ELWES, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, E. HARTERT, Lt.-Col. L. H. IRBY, A. H. MACPHERSON, J. G. MILLAIS, E. NEALE, R. NESHAM, C. E. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, Major R. G. WARDLAW-RAMSAY, HOWARD SAUNDERS (Treasurer), Capt. G. E. Shelley, W. B. TEGETMEIER, A. TREVOR-BATTYE, H. M. WALLIS, J. YOUNG.

Visitors : E. GARNET MAN, COLCHESTER WEMYSS.

Mr. E. A. S. ELLIOT exhibited some interesting skins of North-American birds; amongst others, specimens of the various southern and northern forms of *Bubo virginianus*; *Megascops flammeola* from Colorado, said to belong to the first clutch of eggs sent to the Smithsonian Institution; *Sphyropicus thyroideus* (both sexes), two examples of *Falco richardsoni*; and a *Xema sabinii* in breeding-plumage, remarkable as having been obtained in Colorado.

Mr. H. M. WALLIS exhibited three eggs laid by a Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaëtus), which had been about thirty years in confinement, and began to lay eggs about fifteen years ago. The eggs having been taken and those of a Domestic Fowl substituted, the Eagle hatched three of the latter and reared three fine birds, feeding them principally on the flesh of rats. One of these fowls, a cockerel, was slain by his foster-mother, but the others had thriven. A photograph was exhibited, showing the Eagle and the fowls.

A letter addressed to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe by Count SALVADORI was read, in which he called attention to the differences of plumage exhibited by a series of *Diphyllodes* recently received by him from S.E. New Guinea. He proposed to divide them as follows :--

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS made some remarks on his arrangement of the Order *Gaviæ* in vol. xxv. of the 'British Museum Catalogue.' He divided the Order into two Families :--LARIDÆ, containing Terns, Skimmers, and Gulls; STERCO-SER. VII.--VOL. II. T **BARHID**x, for the Skuas. Besides the well-known cere to the bill, the latter possessed some important distinctive features, which had been overlooked by most naturalists except Dr. E. Coues—*e. g.* the sternum had only *one* notch on each side of the posterior margin; the cæca were much larger than in the Laridæ; and the fully webbed tocs were furnished with strong, sharp, hooked claws.

In his treatment of the subfamily Sterninæ Mr. Saunders had felt obliged to admit a few more genera than he did in his revision in the P.Z.S. for 1876. To Hydrochelidon (the Marsh Terns) succeeded Phuëthusa (the heavy-billed River Tern of tropical America), Gelochelidon (the Gull-billed Tern), Hydroprogne (the Caspian Tern), Seena (the Indian River Tern), Sterna (for 33 species, commencing with S. melanogaster, including the Sooty Terns, and ending with S. trudeaui), Nænia (for the Inca Tern), Procelsterna (for the two small Grev Noddies), Anous (for the large Noddies), Micranous (for the small Slender-billed Noddies), and Gygis (for the 2 aberrant White Terns)-11 genera, 51 species. The American Black Tern (Hydrochelidon surinamensis) was admitted to specific rank; Sterna saundersi, Hume, was the proper name for the species provisionally called S. sumatrana in 1876; Sterna lorata was the name for the small Tern from the south-west of America, previously known as S. exilis of Tschudi, the type of S. exilis in the Neuchâtel Museum having proved to be H. surinamensis.

In the subfamily Rhynchopinæ—with only one genus, *Rhynchops*—five species were admitted. Three of these were found in America, one in Africa, and one in India. That the species found in Africa was far closer to the south-east American species than it is to the Indian would excite no surprise.

The subfamily Larinæ contained 7 genera :--Xema, for 2 species of Fork-tailed Gulls; *Rhodostethia*, for 1 species of Wedge-tailed Gull; *Larus* (44 species); *Gabianus*, for the large Australian Gull, *G. pacificus*, with a very deep bill; *Leucophæus*, for *L. scoresbii*; *Pagophila*, for the Ivory Gull; and *Rissa*, for the two species of Kittiwake. In the family STERCORARIDE, the large Skuas were placed in the genus *Megalestris* (*M. catarrhactes*, &c.), while the three species with elongated central tail-feathers were retained under the genus *Stercorarius*.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited some bird-skins from a collection sent to him for examination by Mr. J. J. Quelch, of the Museum, Georgetown, British Guiana, and called special attention to a fine adult male specimen of *Caprimulgus* maculicaudus (Lawr.) (Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 575), and to an example of Nyctiprogne leucopygia (Spix), being the first specimens he had met with of these species from British Guiana. The two specimens of *C. maculicaudus* in the British Museum were both females, Mr. Hartert having described the male from an example in Graf v. Berlepsch's collection.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the completion and publication of the first volume of Capt. Shelley's work on African birds. The present volume contained a systematic list of the birds of the Ethiopian Region, 2534 in number, with their localities and references to the 'British Museum Catalogue' and to other descriptions and figures.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE communicated a description of a new Lark from the collection made by Dr. Donaldson Smith during his recent expedition to Lake Rudolph :---

MIRAFRA COLLARIS, Sp. n.

M. rectricibus externis extus fulvo marginatis: notæo saturatè cinnamomeo, dorsi plumis albo latè marginatis: supracaudalibus et rectricibus mediais cincreis, nigro medialiter striolatis: subtus fulvescens: hypochondriis cinnamomeis: remigibus subtùs nigris, vix ad basin rufis, pogonio interno minimè isabellino: gulâ isabellinâ: fasciâ nigrâ gutturali insigni, et præpectore cinnamomeo maculato distinguenda. Long. tot. 6.0 poll., culm. 0.5, alæ 3.5, caudæ 3.2, tarsi 0.95.

Mr. O. SALVIN, F.R.S., communicated the following description of a new species of Humming-bird from Northern Peru, which he called

+AGLÆACTIS ALICIÆ, Sp. nov.

- Supra fusco-nigra, dorso postico nitide amethystino; tectricibus supracaudalibus nitide viridescentibus, duabus longissimis amethystinis: alis et cauda saturate cupreis, harum remigis externi pogonio externo et rhachide albis, hujus triente basali alba, rhachidibus in dimidio basali albis: loris, mento, pectore medio, plumis elongatis pectoralibus et tectricibus subcaudalibus albis; gutture medio, pectoris lateralibus et hypochondriisnigricantibus, plumis omnibus stricte pallide limbatis; abdomine medio albicante, subalaribus albis: rostro nigro, mandibulæ basi flavicante; pedibus nigris. Long. tota circa 4.8 poll., alæ 3.4, caudæ rectr. med. 1.5, rectr. lat. 1.8, rostri a rictu 0.9.
- 2 mari similis, coloribus omnibus minus nitidis.

Hab. Suecha, N. Peru, alt. 10,000 feet (O. T. Baron).

Obs. In March of last year Mr. Baron was fortunate enough to meet with this beautiful new *Aglæactis* at a place called Suecha, in the Andes of Northern Peru, at an elevation of 10,000 feet above sea-level. He obtained several specimens of both sexes, some of which he sent to Mr. Godman and others to Mr. Rothschild.

The most nearly allied species is *A. castelnaudi*, from which *A. aliciæ* may readily be distinguished by the following characters :—the brilliant amethystine feathers of the lower back and upper tail-coverts instead of being uniform in colour are interrupted across the base of the tail by a bar of green feathers, they are, moreover, of a redder tint; the tail is dark coppery, and the base of the shafts white; there is a very distinct white patch on the throat and chin, and the outer web of the outermost primary and the under tailcoverts are also white. The white pectoral tuft is composed of short small feathers.

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited an egg of a Domestic Fowl, of an abnormally warm brown colour with darker spots.